



Canigest for the treatment of Gastro Enteritis in Dogs
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Wolves may be regarded as a top predator, but like all predators, wolves are opportunistic feeders. They will therefore not think twice of eating from a carcass of an animal that has not been killed by them. This scavenging habit unfortunately has been passed on to our beloved dogs.

The habit of scavenging is not only restricted to dogs living on the street, even our own pampered dogs that are fed premium dog food will scavenge if given the chance. The problem is that this dietary indiscretion often results in our dogs developing gastro enteritis or as it is more commonly known, an upset stomach. This gastro enteritis can either result in a mild diarrhoea or it can be severe enough in some cases to result in hospitalisation.

Treatment involves rehydrating the dog either via a drip or using oral fluids. In severe cases, antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs may be needed. When the dog starts to eat it is fed a bland diet¹. The most important part of recovering from gastro enteritis is to redress the bacterial imbalance in the gastro intestinal tract (GIT) caused by the gastro enteritis. This can be done by feeding the dog Probiotics and Prebiotics². The earlier this is done the quicker the dog will recover.

A good source of Probiotics and Prebiotics is Canigest, a product manufactured by an Irish Company called TRM and marketed in South Africa by Afrivet.

The Probiotic in Canigest is *Enterococcus faecium* SF68 (strain NCIMB 10415)³. This is a lactic acid producing bacteria and one of the most prevalent bacterial inhabitants of a healthy canine intestine. This bacterium is known to inhibit the growth and adhesion of pathogenic bacteria like enterotoxigenic *E coli*, *salmonellae*, *shigellae* and *Clostridia*⁴.

A prebiotic is a non digestible food ingredient that beneficially affects the health of the GIT by selectively enhancing the growth of bacteria found in the GIT of health animals⁵. Canigest contains the Prebiotic's Fructo Oligosaccharides (FOS) that supply nutrients to beneficial GIT bacteria⁶ and Mannan Oligosaccharides (MOS). MOS prevents pathogenic bacteria



from colonising the GIT by binding to pathogenic bacteria thus assisting in the expulsion of these pathogenic bacteria from the GIT⁷.

Canigest also contains Kaolin, Pectin and Glutamine. Kaolin is a type of clay that lines the GIT allowing the GIT lining to heal. Pectin is a dietary fibre that is fermented into short chain fatty Acids (SCFA) by the GIT bacteria¹. SCFA are important sources of energy for enterocytes⁸. Glutamine is an essential amino acid that is important for the health of enterocytes. Stress on the digestive tract caused by gastro enteritis will increase the need for glutamine and pectin as the body replaces enterocytes damaged by gastro enteritis.

Canigest has a roast meat flavour, thus making it very palatable, even for dogs that that are reluctant to eat because of gastro enteritis. This combined with an easy to use graded syringe, makes it very easy to dose Canigest to dogs and cats.

Canigest is only available from veterinarians; please speak to your vet for more info on the use of this product in the treatment of gastro enteritis.

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Canigest Reg No: V21870 Act 36/1947

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